



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6820**

January Session, 2005

\* \_\_\_\_\_ HB06820PH \_\_\_\_\_ 032905 \_\_\_\_\_ \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING OPTOMETRY AND OPHTHALMOLOGY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (g) of section 20-127 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2005*):

4 (g) (1) [No] An optometrist [shall] may delegate to [any person] an  
5 optometric assistant, optometric technician or appropriately trained  
6 person the use [,] or application [or prescription] of any [ocular agent-  
7 D or ocular agent-T except that] ocular agent in accordance with  
8 section 20-138a, as amended by this act, or an optometrist may cause  
9 the same to be self-administered by a patient under the care and  
10 direction of the optometrist.

11 (2) No optometrist shall delegate to any person the authority to  
12 prescribe any ocular agent.

13 Sec. 2. Section 20-138a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
14 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

15 (a) No person shall engage in the practice of optometry in this state  
16 unless such person has first obtained a license from the Department of  
17 Public Health, but the provisions of this chapter shall not prevent a  
18 licensed optometrist from delegating optometric services to either a

19 trained optometric assistant or to an optometric technician. Such  
20 delegated services shall be performed only under the supervision,  
21 control, and responsibility of the licensed optometrist, except that  
22 [optometric assistants and optometric technicians shall not be  
23 authorized to use prescription and or diagnostic drugs pursuant to this  
24 chapter or chapter 417 nor shall] optometric assistants or optometric  
25 technicians shall not be authorized to refract eyes, detect eye health,  
26 prescribe spectacles, eyeglasses or contact lenses. A licensed  
27 optometrist may delegate to an optometric assistant, optometric  
28 technician or appropriately trained person the use and application of  
29 any ocular agent, provided such delegated service is performed only  
30 under the supervision, control and responsibility of the licensed  
31 optometrist. Optometric services that may be delegated to an  
32 optometric assistant or to an optometric technician may be delegated  
33 to an optometric assistant trainee, provided [that] such services are  
34 performed only under the direct supervision, control and  
35 responsibility of the employing licensed optometrist.

36 (b) Any person in violation of this section shall be fined not more  
37 than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than five years or  
38 both, for each offense. For purposes of this section each instance of  
39 patient contact or consultation which is in violation of any provision of  
40 this section shall constitute a separate offense. Failure to renew a  
41 license in a timely manner shall not constitute a violation for the  
42 purposes of this section.

43 [(b)] (c) For the purposes of this section: (1) "Optometric assistant"  
44 means a person who has either completed two hundred hours of on-  
45 the-job training, an affidavit in support of which shall be kept by the  
46 employing optometrist on the premises, or graduated from a  
47 vocational program in optometric technicianry; (2) "optometric  
48 assistant trainee" means a person who has completed less than two  
49 hundred hours of on-the-job training and who is under the direct  
50 supervision, control and responsibility of an employing, licensed  
51 optometrist when performing optometric services which may be  
52 delegated to optometric assistants and to optometric technicians; (3)

53 "optometric technician" means a person who has either completed a  
 54 two-year college program in optometric technicianry, or passed the  
 55 national optometric technician registration examination given by The  
 56 American Optometric Association; and (4) "appropriately trained  
 57 person" means a person who has completed on-the-job training in the  
 58 use and application of ocular agents under the supervision, control  
 59 and responsibility of an employing, licensed optometrist, an affidavit  
 60 in support of which shall be kept by the employing optometrist on the  
 61 premises.

62 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) A physician licensed  
 63 pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes, who specializes in  
 64 ophthalmology, may delegate to an appropriately trained medical  
 65 assistant the use or application of any ocular agent, provided such  
 66 delegated service is performed only under the supervision, control and  
 67 responsibility of the licensed physician. For purposes of this section,  
 68 "appropriately trained medical assistant" means a medical assistant  
 69 who has completed on-the-job training in the use and application of  
 70 ocular agents under the supervision, control and responsibility of an  
 71 employing, licensed physician, an affidavit in support of which shall  
 72 be kept by the employing physician on the premises.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	20-127(g)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	20-138a
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	New section

**PH**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*